## **CPD EVENT RECORD**

## **CAUDA EQUINA SYNDROME**

with James Booth



This discussion focused on the new UK national guidelines for dealing with suspected Cauda Equina Syndrome, part of the "Getting It Right First Time" (GIRFT) programme.

The anatomy relating to CES was revised and classifications of CES explained, together with likely symptoms and potential consequences. The significance of CES, both in terms of cost to the NHS and effect on patients, was highlighted and the potential for litigation in the event of negligent failure to handle the condition appropriately emphasised.

The timelines and best mechanisms for referral for hospital investigation were explained in detail, as was the need for appropriate communication skills. Essential questions for identifying CES were explained, and strategies for obtaining necessary information without causing offence or undue concern were provided. Good communication skills and accurate recording of findings were of utmost importance.



**Evaluation, Reflection and Impact on Practice** (this part of the certificate is **not** automatically generated - it has been entered by the participant)

This was a very important piece of CPD, and my key takeaway is that I can contact the on-

call spinal or orthopaedic fellow at the hospital in order to expedite referrals, should the need arise. This will be a major factor in getting the best result for any patients at risk of CES.